



VACCINIA

Agent Overview:	Vaccinia virus is a “pox”-type virus related to smallpox and is used to induce immunity against smallpox. The smallpox vaccine contains live vaccinia virus; therefore, proper care of the smallpox vaccination site is essential. Autoinoculation and person-to person transmission can occur until the scab at the vaccination site falls off.
Lab Specimen Submittal:	Authorization by Dr. Jane Getchell, DPHL director, Christina Pleasanton, DPHL deputy director, or Dr. Jack Liou, bioterrorism coordinator.
Type of Specimens Necessary for Testing:	<u>PCR testing only:</u> Dried vesicular fluid on a slide
Packaging Instructions:	Slides must be packed in a plastic slide container. Transport slides to the laboratory in a double unbreakable container, with outside of container decontaminated with 10% bleach.
Receiving Specimens at DPHL:	Authorized specimens are accepted at the back of the building by the loading dock. Submitter must have ID and proper forms completed.
Handling of Specimens:	Chain of custody procedures must be followed for environmental samples or any samples, specimens and materials that could be used as evidence in a legal proceeding. Environmental samples are kept at room temperature and clinical specimens at refrigerator temperature (in a cooler, but not frozen) until delivered to the laboratory.
Reporting Results:	A positive or negative test result is issued upon completion of PCR. PCR may take 24 hrs. <u>However, all positive PCR results must be confirmed by CDC.</u>
Contact Information:	Jane Getchell, DrPH, DPHL director, 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage).